(v) It must offer services to the general public without any distinction of religion, caste or colour.

(vi) It must be of sound financial standing and capable of meeting its share of the non-recurring cost as also the entire cost of running the hospital/ dispensary after it is set up.

(vii) It should agree to reserve a minimum of one-third of the beds as per the definition of a free bed/free medical care given as a part of the application form.

(viii) It should have personnel, resources, experience and managerial ability to carry out the purpose for which the grant of financial assistance has been asked for.

(ix) Its work and financial position should be reported as satisfactory and payment of grant-in-aid should be recommended by the State Government. An organisation/institution managed and maintained by a State Government or local body shall not be eligible to receive assistance under this scheme.

[English]

Categorization of Irrigation Projects

276. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the present categorization of major, medium and minor irrigation projects in the country;

(b) the present average cost of construction of irrigation projects based on one hectare of the command area (separate figures for major, medium and minor projects);

(c) whether the State Government are not authorised to accord final approval to medium projects and that all such projects have to be sent to Government of India for final approval;

(d) whether State Governments will be authorised to accord such approval in future; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) The irrigation projects in the country are categorised as Major, Medium and Minor on the following criteria :

1.	Major	—	Projects with Culturable Command Area (CCA) of more than 10,000 hectares.
2.	Medium	—	Projects with a CCA of 2001 hectares to 10,000 hectares.
3.	Minor	—	Projects with a CCA upto 2,000 hectares.

(b) Based on expenditure and irrigation potential during the Annual Plans 1990-92, the cost per hectare of the irrigation potential works out to Rs. 66,570 for major and medium irrigation projects.

(c) to (e) Medium projects require investment clearance from the Planning Commission after techno-economic appraisal by the Central Water Commission. In the interest of planned development of the country, there is no proposal to authorise the State Governments to accord approval to the medium irrigation projects.

National Council for Women

277. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether women's group across the board have lashed out at the proposal to set up a National Council for Women;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received a memorandum from All India Democratic Women's Association in this regard;

(c) if so, the details of points raised therein; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) to (d) Some women's groups, including the All India Democratic Women's Association, have opposed the National Council envisaged, in the draft National Policy for the Empowerment of Women, to be set up under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister on the misunderstanding that it would be an independent body. The Council would, in fact, be a mechanism within the Government to facilitate inter-ministerial coordination, mainstreaming of gender concerns and proper implementation of all programmes relating to women's empowerment.

Brambani-Subarnarekha

278. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Brambani-Subarnarekha Division of Central Water Commission (CWC) located at Bhubaneswar has since been abolished;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the said abolition has sparked off resentment among the general public, employees of entire eastern river circle and the political circle of the State;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) whether requests have been received from several quarters including Members of Parliament for revival of the Division; and

(f) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken for its revival ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, as there were two Divisions of the Central Water Commission functioning at Bhubaneshwar in Orissa, one of the Division, namely, Brahmani-Subarnarekha Division has been converted into a Monitoring and Appraisal Unit under the regionalisation programme of Central Water Commission. This Unit will monitor the major and medium irrigation projects in the State.

(c) and (d) Some representations have been received against the conversion of the Division into a Monitoring and Appraisal Unit. But the Government are of the opinion that since this has been done without any reduction in the activities of the Central Water Commission or retrenchment of the existing staff the present arrangement is more appropriate for efficient functioning of the Central Water Commission in the State.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. In the light of the replies to parts (c) and (d) above, it has been decided to continue the existing arrangement.

[Translation]

National Award to Teachers

279. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the norms and procedure prescribed to select primary and higher secondary teachers for President's National awards;

(b) whether reports of large scale manipulation and charges have been received in respect of the list of the teachers selected and recommended as per the prescribed norms;

(c) if so, the details thereof, Statewise and Place-wise; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent manipulations in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) A statement is attached.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Statement

Norms and Procedure prescibed to select primary and higher secondary teachers for National Award:

- Classroom teachers with atleast 15 years teaching experience and headmasters with 20 years of experience and who are actually working as teachers/headmasters in recognised primary/ middle/high/higher secondary schools only shall be considered. Teachers who are teaching upto class VIII should be considered in the category of Primary School Teachers and those teaching classes IX—XII in the category of Secondary School Teachers.
- Normally retired teachers are not eligible for the award but those teachers who have served a part of the calendar year (atleast for four months) may be considered if they fulfil all other conditions.
- Teachers whose names were recommended last year or before can be considered again if they are still otherwise eligible and are recommended by the State Government/Union Territory Administration.
- Teachers from the recognised institutions for the physically and mentally handicapped are also eligible for the awards, provided they fulfil all other prescribed conditions.
- Educational administrators (Inspectors of Education etc.) and the staff of training colleges are not eligible for these awards.

In addition to the above, the main considerations which should guide the selection of teachers are :

- Teacher's reputation in the local community.
- His/her academic efficiency and desire for its improvement.
- His/her genuine interest in and love for children.
- His/her involvement in the social life of the community.

[English]

Hydrological Studies in Karnataka

280. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested to include Karnataka also in the project to conduct hydrological studies in the peninsular states under a programme of the Ministry; and

(b) if so, the details including the expenditure being incurred under this IDA assisted project ?